

Diploma in Archaeology: Online, Year 1

Archaeology is the study of the material remains of past human societies. The discipline covers a remarkable span of time and investigates some of the most profoundly important developments of the past. The wide scope of archaeology, in time, space and methodology is one of the features which makes the subject so attractive to professional and amateur alike. There is something to interest everyone - whether their interests lie in outdoor fieldwork and exploring ancient monuments, the study of artefacts, the history of technology, local studies, or simply in the rich heritage of Ireland's past.

Archaeology is a constantly changing discipline, fed by new discoveries, new theoretical approaches and new analytical methods. These discoveries continue to revolutionise the subject's potential to inform us about the past and to give us a valuable long perspective on how this past has shaped our present. Exciting aspects of the practical side of archaeology, such as excavation, are familiar to everyone, but excavation is only one aspect of a discipline that combines humanistic interest with scientific method. For the interested student, archaeology offers a stimulating opportunity for intellectual enquiry.

This two year programme has four broad aims:

- To introduce students to the discipline of archaeology.
- To present the archaeology of Ireland as a way of understanding ten thousand years of human settlement on this island.
- To study aspects of current archaeological research in Ireland in detail.
- To promote interest in Ireland's heritage at a national and international level.

All modules are delivered wholly online using Blackboard. They comprise illustrated text, self-assessment exercises, online discussions and multi-media content that includes mini-lectures and site visits.

AR8100 *Mesolithic to Megalithic: Ireland in the Stone Age*

The module will start with an overview of the Irish past and its chronological periods, progressing to an examination of the early prehistory of Ireland, the Stone Age. The first lectures deal with the earliest settlers in Ireland in the Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age, the landscape they found and how they interacted with it. The latter part of the module turns to the arrival of farming and the huge changes associated with this new way of life in the Neolithic or new Stone Age. Emphasis will also be placed on death, burial and ritual, discussing, for example, the great megalithic tombs of Ireland. Some of the sites that will be mentioned include the Mesolithic settlement at Mount Sandel, the megalithic tombs of the Boyne Valley and the preserved field systems of the Céide Fields.

Assessment: Weekly online reports and end-of-module essay

Weighting: 5 ECTS

Reading List

The core textbook for this course is:

Waddell, J. 1998 *The Prehistoric Archaeology of Ireland*. Galway, Galway University Press (reprinted by Wordwell, Dublin).

E-book available at:

<http://shop.wordwellbooks.com/The-Prehistoric-Archaeology-of-Ireland/p/29987/>

AR8101 *Metal and Warriors: Bronze and Iron Age Ireland*

This module considers the many developments that marked the transition to the Bronze Age, from the introduction of metallurgy to changes in the structure of society and ritual practices. The arrival of Celtic influences to Ireland and the process of Celticisation in the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age are explored, alongside a general study of Iron Age remains. Some of the evidence to be discussed includes the earliest copper mine in Ireland at Ross Island near Killarney, Bronze Age goldwork and the royal sites at Tara and Rathcroghan. General themes, such as archaeological dating, will be addressed at relevant points.

Assessment: Weekly online reports and end-of-module essay

Weighting: 5 ECTS

Reading List

The core textbook for this course is:

Waddell, J. 1998 *The Prehistoric Archaeology of Ireland*. Galway, Galway University Press (reprinted by Wordwell, Dublin).

E-book available at:

<http://shop.wordwellbooks.com/The-Prehistoric-Archaeology-of-Ireland/p/29987/>

AR8102 *Saint, Scholar, Viking, Norman: Medieval Ireland (AR8102)*

This module provides an introduction to Early Medieval and Medieval Ireland from the first Christian communities in the fifth century AD up to the start of the early modern period. The first part of the module looks at Early Medieval and Viking Ireland between the fifth and twelfth centuries AD, covering topics such as settlement, economy and art (e.g. fine metalwork and manuscripts), the early Christian Church (e.g. high crosses and round towers), and Ireland and the Viking world. The second part focuses on Anglo-Norman and Gaelic Ireland in the Medieval period, covering topics such as the archaeology of medieval castles, churches and towns.

Assessment: Weekly online reports and end-of-module essay

Weighting: 5 ECTS

Reading List

The core textbooks for this course are:

Edwards, N. 1990 *The Archaeology of Early Medieval Ireland*. London, Routledge.

E-book available at:

<http://www.ebooks.com/1144699/the-archaeology-of-early-medieval-ireland/edwards-nancy/>

Barry, T. 1988 *The Archaeology of Medieval Ireland*. London, Routledge.

E-book available at:

<http://www.ebooks.com/178492/the-archaeology-of-medieval-ireland/barry-terry-b/>